

WPLC Board Project Updates – 8-26-15

Buying pool percentage pilot project

When the buying pool started, the amount for the buying pool was set at \$1,000,000, partially because that amount represented approximately 5% of the spending on physical materials by all public libraries in the state. In 2014, the relative percentage had gone down to 3.9%. If we factor in Advantage spending, the relative percentage is 4.8%, slightly less than 5%.

As there have been discussions in the past about increasing the amount of the buying pool, the Digital Library Steering Committee supported a pilot project to encourage a system to increase the amount spent as an experiment to measure impact on patron use. Winnefox Library System has consistently invested more into their Advantage collection than other systems, so, rather than increasing the amount of their spend, we are looking at current and historical data (when available) to see the impact, if any, the higher investment makes on patron use.

We will be tracking patron hold information through the end of the year, and will combine that information with historical and current circulation data to share with the Board and Steering Committee early next year.

Libraries Simplified and LEAP

In July, there was a webinar with Micah May from the New York Public Library about these two programs. If you missed the webinar, you can watch the recording { <http://wplc.info/sites/wplc.info/files/2015-07-17%2013.02%20Overview%20of%20Libraries%20Simplified%20and%20the%20LEAP%20Initiative%20for%20WPLC.mp4>} or read the attached article for more information.

During the board meeting, we would like to:

--Discuss the programs and what advantages (if any) they could offer us and the patrons of the Wisconsin Digital Library

--Discuss participation:

- Do we want to participate in either of these programs now?
 - For Libraries Simplified, participation could mean deploying the app for our patrons.
 - For LEAP, participation could mean “buying in” to early discussions about the program, sharing what we would need to purchase materials from the exchange so that the service would be most usable for us.
- If not, is there enough interest to continue to monitor the progress and report back to the Board and Steering Committee?

Are there other avenues to explore to help us reach the advantages that we could get through these programs?

Newspaper project

An excel spreadsheet of the titles and dates for the pilot project is included with this report.

You'll notice that none of these titles are from larger communities in the state. The Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) has applied for a National Digital Newspaper Program grant from the Library of Congress to digitize "papers of record" from the state, which would include papers from the larger communities.

WHS was recently informed that they will be receiving this grant, which is great news! While exact titles have not yet been chosen, we expect the titles to be a good complement to those selected for our pilot.

WILS is working with WHS, Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA), and DPI on the next steps of the project, which are:

- To finalize filenaming conventions (very important for ingesting of data into the WNA platform)
- To start digitizing microfilm held at WHS
- To start working to secure permission for titles in copyright (which WNA will do in conjunction with the libraries where this is needed.)

We hope to have all content digitized by the end of the year, and the components in place to begin growing the collection shortly after that.

Analytics project

The committee received pricing for the three top contenders: Orange Boy, Gale Analytics, and Civic Technologies, along with an update on how state privacy laws would impact what we can do with such a product. The workgroup has added members and will be meeting on September 1st to discuss next possible steps, which could include in-person extended demonstrations of the products.